Jeff Prugh
724 Ridge Drive
Glendale, CA 91206

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Dear Jeff,

Despite not a single ad or promotion or review or story and the butchering in publication, Case Open is selling well, I'm told. My mail and phone calls are more than merely pleasing. They are more and more flattering than I've ever had. The people who have come to see me range from students to (and I'd make no use of anything personal, so it is confidential) ~~range from~~ the regional sales manager of a major international corporation and an executive of a major-league baseball club. A ~~MANX~~ woman in northern California wrote to tell me that she prizes a painting of the cover of Case Open, two feet by three, made for her by a friend, and to ask is she may make T-shirts. Several hundred letters and countless calls, all highly favorable.

Case Open has had an unusual validation-by Posner and Random House. But I soon face a character assassination over it.

They plus the NY Times are being sued by Robert Groden not over the content of the book but over an ad using his and other pictures without asking permission and under a big black WANTED! caption. Apparently in New York that is illegal under most conditions, or at least Groden's lawyer claims.

In response to the complaint RH's lawyers pulled a shady one, an irrelevancy. They gave the judge a copy of the book and a thick stack of favorable reviews. In response Groden's ~~layer~~ lawyer, formerly a CBS Newsman, prepared a lengthy affidavit based entirely on Case Open and gave it to the judge. No refutation even attempted.

And still not a peep to me from Posner or RH.

Anchor, a Doubleday subsidiary, contracted a paperback reprint last year. Posner has been quite busy correcting the innumerable minor errors but he can't change the fact that his book is a fraud. He even referred to one of those mythical Dealey Plaza tramps as Buddy Harrelson, the former major-league ballplayer!

Unable to touch what I've had published, a small fraction of what I wrote, he has, I've been told by what should be a dependable source, added a lengthy character assassination of me to the reprint. That is cowardly, particularly because of my age and health, and because it is in a form that precludes refutation.

I'd like to hope that someone could see a story in a young man running from an oldster who is so frail he can walk only about five minutes if he goes slowly and is helped by a cane; can be exhausted no matter how slowly he climbs a flight of stairs; who has been under a medical prohibition against lifting more than 15 pounds for five years; but who befriended him by giving him free access to all the information he has in 60 file cabinets, first/g of once-secret official records he got by a dozen lawsuits against the government under the Freedom of Information Act. (Some of those suits were presedental and

one led to the 1974 amending of the act to make FBI, CIA and similar agency files accessible under it. FYI, Teddy Kennedy is the one who saw to it that the legislative history is explicit on this.)

Free, unsupervised access to all those documents it took more than a decade of costly litigation to get and unsupervised access to our copier.

Or, a prime stinker by any standard. He made a dozen unsourced attacks on me in his book. They range from deliberate distortion to outright lies, an unusual expression of appreciation.

Unable to respond to anything in Case Open as well as in court to that affidavit based entirely upon it, Posner sneaks a character assassination into a mass paperback book that will have more distortions to outright lies to defame me.

And this over such a thing as the assassination of a President and its official investigations.

Posner's book is an unhidden exploitation if it. He told one interviewer he believed the time had come, thanks to the Oliver Stone movie JFK, for a story on the other side. He contrived that with spectacular dishonesty and got away with it. Save for Case Open.

What he cannot refute in any way in it is his calling him and his book a fraud and an intended commercialization and exploitation of that tragedy, a shyster, a plagiarist who used the faulty work of a child as his own, and a liar who can't tell the truth even by accident.

Instead, with Anchor making no check at all, and I've heard not a word from it, because it is not libel againat a "public person" if one has a sources, not matter how disreputable a source, to make money does have this character assassination coming.

I have written Doubleday, by the way. There is no separate phone listing for Anchor.

I'd like to see a story on this before the reprint is out or a magazine article after it is out.

I suppose the LA Time is unhappy about its, the only really critical review of Posner's book because Kwitny made so many mistakes in it.

Bad as Posner's book is, it almost got a Pulitzer! One of the committee that recommended it complained when their recommendation was rejected. He did not respond when I asked him what checking he had done, if any, to satisfy himself he had not recommended a fraud for the Pulitzer in history.

I don't know whether you read my butchered book or not but it stacks.

If you see any possibility and would like a copy of my letter to Doubleday let me know. I hope it reached a woman executive because one of the things I attached was what Posner suppressed about one of his main sources. He was a shrink who got free sex from his woman patients - they paid him for it - until a court assessed him $350,000 in one case. And Posner lied about what that shrink said anyway. Best,

Harold